

Belper Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1946

RICHARD CLAYTON ALLEN, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
(Lond.), D.P.H. (Birm.)

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

FRANCIS COSTELLO, A.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Chairman of the Council: COUNCILLOR JOHN LEONARD
STREET, J.P., C.C.

Chairman of the Health Committee: COUNCILLOR JOHN W.
BLACKHAM.

Clerk of the Council: CHARLES PRICE, O.B.E.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area of District in Acres | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,294 |
| Estimated Population | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14,650 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | £78,157 |
| General Rate for 1946 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16/1d. |
| Product of a Penny Rate | .. | ... | ... | ... | £305 |
| Total Debt for all purposes | ... | ... | ... | ... | £151,105 |
| Debt for Housing only | ... | ... | ... | ... | £126,345 |
| Number of Houses on Rate Book | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,019 |
| New Houses Erected and Occupied during 1946... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 84 |
| (Fifty of the above being Council Houses.) | | | | | |
| Number of Live Births Registered: Boys 153, Girls 143 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 296 |
| Number of Illegitimate Births: Boys 8, Girls 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Still Births: Males 3, Females 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Deaths of Infants under One Year: Boys 5, Girls 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Total Number of Deaths: Males 74, Females 76 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 150 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of Population... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10.24 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20.27 |

Riversdale,
Bridge Street,
Belper,
August, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Belper Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my 26th Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the district. The report is for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

I am very pleased to report that from a health point of view the year was one of the best I have known. A total of 47 cases of Infectious Disease is considerably lower than for many years. Twelve cases of scarlet fever is the lowest figure for this disease since 1932, and of these cases eleven were treated at the Hospital, whilst one case was isolated and treated at its home. All cases were mild in character, and soon yielded to treatment, all the patients recovering. There were only two cases of diphtheria, both of whom were adults who had not been immunised. These cases also were mild in character, and quickly recovered after treatment at the Hospital.

Five cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, and there were two deaths from this disease, as against six deaths last year, and four the year previously. Only one case of Non-pulmonary T.B. was reported, compared with three in 1945.

Measles and whooping cough cases showed good reductions over the previous year, and it is gratifying to record that there were no cases of Typhoid, Dysentery, Puerperal Pyrexia, Smallpox, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Encephalitis, or Poliomyelitis.

The Sessions for immunisations against diphtheria continue to be held at the Clinic, Field Lane, on the last Wednesday of each month, where treatment is given free of cost. The figures at the end of the year showed that of the child population under five years, 37.03 per cent. had been immunised, while of those between 5—15 years 73.87 per cent. had also received the treatment. In addition to the foregoing, 156 children who had been immunised reached the age of 15 years, and in accordance with Ministry of Health instructions are excluded from our returns.

Comparisons regarding the incidence of Infectious Diseases over the past seven years are shown on tables on following pages.

The Council's water services were well maintained during the year, and I am pleased to note that the houses presently supplied by the Strutt Private Supply will be connected to the Council's mains during 1947. Many samples of the Town's Water were analysed during the year, and all satisfied the tests. Chlorination in accordance with Ministry of Health requirements is being carried out on all supplies. At the end of the year discussions were being held for improving the water supply to the Makeney and Sunnyhill areas, and I am pleased that schemes have been approved, although there will be some delay before they can be put into effect.

With the exception of a few cottages at Swainsley (which should be either condemned or re-constructed at the appropriate date) which have a common standpipe for water, and about six other cottages, all houses have a supply of Public Water laid on into them.

I have inspected all schools in the district, and have generally been satisfied with their cleanliness, and also that of the children. New sanitary accommodation, consisting of water closets, was provided at one school to replace insanitary trough closets, and a wonderful improvement has been effected.

Together with your Sanitary Inspector, who selects the tenants for your Council Houses, I have considered the claims of a number of special applicants, and am satisfied that by re-housing five families where there were cases of Tuberculosis, or suspect cases, together with past history, good will result by reason of the better living accommodation. It has been possible to some extent to relieve overcrowding conditions, which make for ill-health and unhappiness, but there is still considerable overcrowding, and only the erection of more houses can effect an improvement.

Numerous farms, dairies, food premises, factories, and houses have been visited by me in the company of the Sanitary Inspector, and I have always been satisfied with the cleanliness of the premises concerned.

For some years I have been dissatisfied with the Sewage Works, and have asked for improvements to be carried out. I am, therefore, pleased to hear that improvements are impending, and also that sewer extensions to the Chevin, Farnah Green, and

Blackbrook are under consideration. It is hoped that an early start can be made on these works, particularly the Sewage Works.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk (Mr. Charles Price), and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Francis Costello), for the help and co-operation received during the year.

I remain, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RICHARD C. ALLEN,
 Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the rise and fall of the various notifiable diseases during the past seven years.

| | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 9 | 9 | 13 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | 67 | 53 | 80 | 32 | 33 | 25 | 12 |
| Diphtheria | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Erysipelas | 3 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Pneumonia | 8 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | 6 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tubercular Meningitis | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | 31 | 264 | 197 | 42 | 5 | 58 | 17 |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | 40 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 26 | 7 |
| Totals ... | 138 | 393 | 311 | 99 | 61 | 128 | 47 |

During the year a total of 150 persons died—74 males and 76 females, a decrease of 12 compared with the previous year, and 26 less than the year 1944. The death-rate was 10.24 compared with 11.57 in 1945, and 12.57 in 1944.

The following tables give the causes of deaths registered during 1946.

| | M. | F. |
|---|----|----|
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | — | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | — | 2 |
| Influenza | 1 | 2 |
| Ac. Inf. Enceph. | — | 1 |
| Cancer | 15 | 10 |

| | M. | F. |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|
| Cerebro Haemorrhage | 9 | 7 |
| Heart Disease | 22 | 26 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | 3 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 2 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | — | 1 |
| Diarrhoea, under 2 years | 1 | — |
| Other Digestive Disorders | 1 | 2 |
| Nephritis | 4 | 2 |
| Other Maternal Causes | — | 1 |
| Premature Birth | — | 1 |
| Congenital Debility | 3 | 1 |
| Suicide | 1 | 1 |
| Other Violent Causes | 3 | 2 |
| All other Causes | 6 | 9 |
| | — | — |
| Totals | 74 | 76 |
| | — | — |

Births registered during the year totalled 296—boys 153, and girls 143. This total is an increase of 86 over the year 1945. The birth-rate was 20.2, as against 15 in 1945, and 17.93 in 1944. There were four still births—a decrease of three. There were 16 illegitimate births, which is an increase of two.

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AT VARYING AGES DURING 1946.

| | Under 1 yr. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 60 | Ttl. |
|----------------|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Smallpox | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | — | 12 |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Enteric Fever— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Typhoid | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Para- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| typhoid | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pyrexia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Erysipelas | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 |
| Measles | — | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 17 |
| Whooping | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cough | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 7 |
| Pulmonary | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tuberculosis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 5 |
| Non-pulmonary | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tuberculosis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 17 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | — | 47 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present my Seventh Annual Report, which is for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

The year was notable for the many difficulties experienced in connection with essential repairs to property, both labour and materials being in short supply. Despite these obstacles, it was possible to have many properties brought up to a reasonable standard, but the wholesale clearance of unfit properties, as mentioned in my last report, cannot as yet be carried out. The erection of Council Houses was proceeding satisfactorily considering the many set-backs experienced, and at the end of the year, 10 three-bedroomed permanent houses and 40 two-bedroomed temporary houses were completed and occupied. Many others were in course of erection, but completion was delayed by the exceptionally bad weather. Thirty houses and four flats were completed by private enterprise.

At the end of 1946, 624 applications had been received for the tenancy of Council Houses. Of this number at the end of the year there were still 324 families sharing houses with relatives and others, while there were 64 families living in overcrowded conditions.

Councillors will remember that I asked permission to allocate 15 per cent. of all new houses to re-house families from properties which I propose to submit for condemnation, but in view of the great shortage of houses, and the figures given above, it was agreed that the time was not appropriate for such work to commence. The wisdom of this decision was further enhanced when it became known what ration of houses had been given to us.

The selection of tenants was by code numbers, and allocations were made under a "Points" and "Need" scheme, which worked very well. Five families where there were cases of tuberculosis were re-housed, and a number of other cases where there were rheumatic and chest complaints. To my knowledge the health of most of these families has improved by reason of them being moved from inadequate and damp houses to new ones.

Eight Statutory and 543 preliminary notices were served during the year, and of this number the only notices outstanding were four of the statutory, and in these cases the work was in

the hands of contractors. Inspection and re-visits in connection with the above totalled 1,926. (This figure includes visits to farms, food premises, and drainage works.)

NOTICES COMPLIED WITH.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Conversion of pail closets into water closets (houses) ... | 18 |
| Conversion of pail closets into water closets (factories) ... | 10 |
| Tippler closets converted to water closets ... | 5 |
| New closet basin fixed ... | 14 |
| New closet cisterns ... | 17 |
| Repairs to defective closets ... | 15 |
| New closet buildings erected to re-place dangerous ones ... | 5 |
| Dustbin renewals ... | 445 |
| Defective and choked drains ... | 35 |
| Repairs to roofs and spouting ... | 47 |
| Renewal of chimney pots ... | 9 |
| Provision of glazed sinks ... | 8 |
| Repairs to windows ... | 7 |
| New windows ... | 16 |
| Pointing of outside walls ... | 8 |
| Repairs to floors ... | 5 |
| New firegrates ... | 16 |
| Repairs to firegrates ... | 13 |
| Defective plasterwork made good ... | 21 |
| Repairs to stairs ... | 6 |
| New house doors ... | 3 |
| New wash coppers ... | 5 |
| Water supplies carried into houses ... | 5 |

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

At the end of 1946 there were: 3586 water closets, 318 pail closets, 31 privies, 72 tippler and other types.

During the year 18 pail and five tippler closets were converted to the water carriage system. Work in connection with the sewerage of Broadholme was in progress at the year end, and agreements had been reached with all property owners in the area for the houses to be connected to the sewer, and for the pails and privies to be converted to the water carriage system. When this work is completed the number of pails and privies will be reduced by about 30. A scheme was under consideration for providing more water to the Makeney and Sunnyhill areas, and here again on completion up to 30 houses will be able to have modern sanitation. So far as I am aware, there are only two houses in the district which have not separate closets.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

During the year almost a weekly collection of refuse prevailed throughout the district. It is estimated from check weighings that 4,396 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of by controlled tipping. This figure is an increase on previous years, and is accounted for mainly by the increased use of outcrop coal and inferior coal supplied to the miners.

Collection for many years has been by a Shelvoke and Drewry freighter and one horse and cart. During the year the horse and cart were disposed of and an order placed for another Shelvoke and Drewry freighter, delivery of which is not expected until late 1947. In the meantime, hired transport is being used, and this proves rather costly.

The Shelvoke and Drewry freighter is now almost eight years old, and it was necessary for a new engine and other repairs to be effected during the year. Despite the age, however, there is reason to think it can remain in service for several years to come.

Notices were served for the renewals of 445 dustbins, and of this number 216 were purchased from the Council. Every effort is made to see that each house has a separate bin, and there are no ashpits in the district.

Salvage took up much time and trouble; the income being £881 9s. 11d., of which £273 5s. 3d. was profit.

Nightsoil collection is by contract, and in the whole of the year only three complaints were received.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Your Surveyor takes samples of water for analysis, and all such samples were satisfactory. All Towns Water is chlorinated in accordance with the Ministry of Health requirements.

Five houses which previously were supplied by one outside tap had water laid on, over a proper glazed sink. One other house previously supplied by a "well," also took a supply from the Council's mains.

It is gratifying to know that at last terms have been arranged with the Strutt Estate for the abolition of their private water supply, and the 108 dwellings and business premises to be connected during 1947 to the Council's mains. This matter has been rather prolonged, discussions having been held over more than two years. However, no one seems to have suffered, despite

the adverse reports of the Analyst, but it is more satisfactory for all properties to be supplied from the Public Supply. A constant supply was maintained for the whole of the year, with the exception of a number of cottages situated near the top of Sunny-hill. The water supply at the Makeney area also is not adequate to permit of modern sanitation. However, it is thought that arising out of discussions with the Belper Rural District, an improved and constant supply will be available in the near future.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

A number of visits was made to the swimming baths, and the water was satisfactory, the filtration and chlorination plant being satisfactory and well up to its work.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODSTUFFS.

Condemnation notes were issued regarding the following articles of food, which were found to be unfit for human consumption; Corned beef, 94 lbs.; corned mutton, 9 lbs.; tongue, 6 lbs.; bacon, 71 lbs.; oatmeal, 46 lbs.; cooking fats, 47 lbs.; sausages, 37 lbs.; herrings, 182 lbs.; codfish, 154 lbs.; cheese, 36 lbs.; tea, 3 lbs.; semolina, 35 lbs.; sugar, 14 lbs.; stewed steak, 13 tins; tomatoes, 10 tins; salmon, 13 tins; sardines, 16 tins, peas, 19 tins; beans, 14 tins; soup, 11 tins; jam, 14 tins; milk, 32 tins.

Ninety-seven visits were made to premises where food is prepared or stored, and same were found to be in a cleanly condition. Visits were made regularly to ice cream premises, and in all cases I was satisfied.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Eleven farmers in the district are producing accredited milk, and one farmer Tuberculin Tested. A number of other farmers from outside districts retail accredited milk within the Urban District, while two retailers supply pasteurised milk.

Seventy-six visits were made to farms and dairies, and arising out of such visits and notices served, eight cowsheds were cleansed and limewashed, while five cowsheds were completely re-modelled.

KNACKERS' YARDS

There is one Licensed Knacker's Yard in the district, to which numerous visits were made. Generally the premises are cared for in a satisfactory manner.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one Common Lodging House which has been registered by the Council in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936. The maximum number for which the premises are registered is 50 persons, and at my request the keeper of the house agreed not to admit any children for more than one night.

Twelve visits have been made to these premises, and on all occasions the premises have been cleanly. All occupants are required by the keeper to have a bath weekly, and casual visitors must bath on arrival. I am satisfied that the business is being conducted as well as can be expected.

RAG AND BONE DEALERS.

One application was received to be a Dealer in Rags, but same was rejected by the Council. There was no appeal against the Council's decision.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

All Factories in the district were inspected, and the following notices were complied with:—

Park Foundry.—Closet accommodation thoroughly cleansed.

Glow-worm Boilers.—Ten pail closets re-placed by proper water closets and urinals. These premises were also connected to the Council sewer.

Litchfield Bros.—New sanitary accommodation provided to replace dilapidated structures.

The closets to five other factories were limewashed after an intimation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Nineteen houses were fumigated after infectious diseases, and the usual enquiries made. Many library books have been fumigated after they have been in houses where certain infectious diseases have occurred. Books from houses where there has been either scarlet fever or diphtheria are always destroyed as a precaution against the spread of the disease.

No cases of scabies were notified during the year, but ten houses were treated for bug infestation and two for fleas.

In conclusion, may I express my gratitude to the Council and various Committees for their support and interest, to the Clerk of the Council and colleagues in other departments for help and co-operation, and, finally, to the members of the cleansing service for the manner in which they carried out their duties, particularly during the very bad weather.

I remain, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRANCIS COSTELLO,

Sanitary Inspector.

